

THE CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR CONVENTION TENTS IN THE WHITE LOT.

THE GATES OF THE CITY SWING FORWARD

Thousands of Christian Endeavorers Welcomed.

Washington Invaded by a Peace- ful Army—Scenes at the Depots and State Headquarters.

Washington's welcome to the Christian Endeavorers is moist but hearty and sincere. Today the great army of workers in the cause of righteousness and truth began to arrive in numbers. They found the city ready to receive them, glad to meet them, enthusiastic over their coming, and beautiful in holiday dress in their honor. But heavy clouds hung over the District, a rain was falling, and the material prospect was dismal indeed. This drawback, however, was of slight consequence to the earnest young men and women who form God's flying squadron on earth, for their hearts were light and happy at the chance to meet old friends, to work for the common cause of united Christianity, and to sow the seeds of good citizenship in this national city. To such sincere, energetic folks a little rain does not act as a hindrance. It finds them philosophic and hopeful. So, as the delegates poured out of the railroad stations today by the scores and hundreds and found the sky frowning upon them they made the best of a bad situation and remarked that tomorrow would bring better weather.

A Characteristic Spirit.

This spirit is characteristic of the visitors now thronging into Washington by every train. They belong to the United Society of Christian Endeavor. Laying aside their denominational belief, forgetting the dogmas of the twenty-eight different creeds that are to be found embraced within the folds of the great convention banner of red and blue, they have come not only from all sections of America, but also from the four quarters of the globe, to sing and speak the praises of a divine power, and to spread a faith in Christianity. They come to these annual meetings at no small sacrifice of time and money. Their hearts are in the cause, and what matters it if at their journey's end they find the weather unpropitious?

The Number Expected.

So they have come to Washington, a peaceful army of fighters against wrong and sin and evil thinking, one of the greatest powers for good in this great land. It is yet too early to speak in exact numbers, for the trains that are due this evening and tonight will bring many hundreds more, and probably many thousands. The committees expect between thirty-five and forty thousand visitors, forgetting the thousands of the U. S. E. societies within the District, and about 3,000 Juniors, so that, if the maximum expectations are realized, the capital will by tomorrow noon contain upward of 50,000 Endeavorers, a mighty force of workers, a throng that, if

armed and drilled in the art of war, would be a formidable foe. But they come on a peaceful mission. They have besieged our hearts, not our gates.

The Handsome Decorations.

The city looks fair enough at any time when the trees are in leaf, the flowers are in bloom, and the grass is bright and green. It is an ideal city for a convention, and especially for one like this, attended by thousands who appreciate such things to the full. But, not content with the adornments of nature, the citizens have vied with each other in decorating their homes and business houses, until the eye cannot escape the sight of flags and bunting in any direction. The main thoroughfares are ablaze with color. The national banner and the convention flag float side by side, making a harmonious blending of sentiment as well as of hues. The tall fronts of avenue buildings are almost hidden behind streamers and flags, and the vista from the Peace monument to the treasury is one of color piled on color, until the great highway seems to be lined by hanging gardens, rivaling those of Babylon of old. On F street the merchants have arisen to the occasion, and have hung hundreds of banners to the breeze. The same is true of 7th street, and there seems not to be a block in the whole city where the decorating spirit has not entered at least one house and caused the display of at least a few convention flags. Citizens who have no direct interest in the occasion have cheerfully accepted the committee's invitation to decorate, and, as a result, the city is in full bloom today, a little bedraggled by the rain, but in hearty accord with the spirit of the convention.

Business-Like Arrangements.

The business-like arrangements of the committees in charge of the local part of the great affair were well manifested last night and today in the smoothness with which the incoming thousands were received at the stations and sent to their temporary quarters. The organization of the work was such as to insure perfect execution. At each station a committee was in waiting at all hours. The schedule of arrivals was known to a certainty, and on the incoming of each train the delegates were met and escorted at once to their state headquarters in the various churches, where the detailed work of assigning them to rooms in hotels and private houses was done with business-like smoothness and celerity. Everything was accomplished with an entire absence of confusion and friction, for each detail of the work had been thought out in advance by the competent and hard-working members of the local committees, who have been planning and striving for over a year to make the convention of 1896 a complete success. The greatest activity today was at the different churches that have been designated as headquarters for the state delegations. Here arrangements had been made for the reception of the guests and for their continued comfort throughout the convocation. The meeting rooms of these churches are now all handsomely decorated, and no effort has been spared by the local pastors to bring the delegates to feel quite at home in Washington. The speakers and others scheduled to participate in the great meetings are arriving with their delegations, and some came ahead of the main body of visitors to look over the ground and to cast about for their journey's end. They are all delighted with the arrangements, and forecast a great success for the Christian Endeavorers and a wonderful spiritual awakening in Washington. The officers of the United Society are already on the ground and are content with each detail of the preparations. They congratulate the local committees at every turn, and pronounce their work a complete success in every particular. This result has been difficult of accomplishment. The committees were bound to secure a fund of large proportions to guarantee the expenses of the convention, and they succeeded after a thorough canvass of the city in obtaining a sufficient sum. It takes a small fortune to organize and conduct a convention attended by forty or fifty thousand people, and the present prospect is that in every respect this convention will not have a parallel, in point of completeness, in the history of the organization.

The Formal Program.

The formal program opens with a series of meetings to be held tonight from 8 to 10 o'clock in the twenty-two churches. These meetings will be somewhat evangelistic in character, and the general topic for discussion will be "Deepening the Spiritual Life." In twenty of the churches there will be short devotional services, followed by addresses on the topic just named, after which there will be a "quiet hour," a typically Christian Endeavor feature, in which the people present engage for a period in silent meditation. At two churches there will be stereopticon lectures—one on "The Crescent Against the Cross" and the other on "The Land of the Rising Sun." These features will profitably and pleasantly prepare the minds of the delegates for the formal opening of the convention tomorrow, when the great meetings will be held in the three enormous tents that have been raised in the White Lot, in the shadow of the tall white shaft erected to the memory of the first President. The opening day will be begun by the holding of prayer meetings at thirty-three churches, from 6:30 to 7:15 in the morning. The tent meetings will begin at 9:30 and will adjourn at 11:40. At noon there will be an evangelistic meeting at the Central Union Mission, and others at the church headquarters. The afternoon will be devoted to denominational meetings, at twenty-eight churches, and at night, from 7:30 to 9:45, there will be meetings in the tents, in Central Hall, and in five of the largest and most centrally located churches, thus closing the day. This program is typical of the days that are to follow. The business meetings of trustees who are the executive force of the United Society, will be held at their convenience permits. One of their most important duties is the choice of a city for the convention of 1898, to be selected this year, in accordance with the custom that provides for the making of such plans two years in advance. These trustees also choose the officers of the United Society, which is the national organization, based on the 43,112 local societies that were in existence January 1, 1895, in the various parts of the Christian world. Thus the fifteenth convention of this great society of Christian people is about to begin with nearly fifty thousand delegates in attendance, representing a total membership of nearly three million, one of the greatest armies ever organized in the history of mankind.

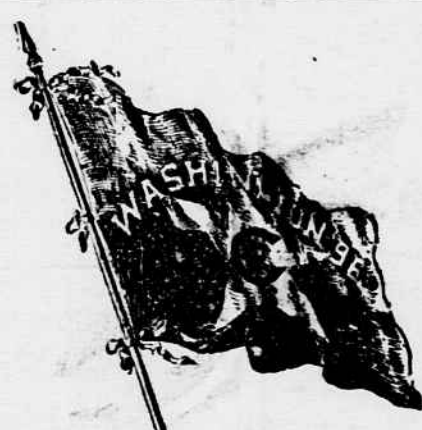
AT COMMITTEE HEADQUARTERS.

A Busy Time at the Light Infantry Armory Today.

One of the busiest places in all Washington today was the big hall of the Light Infantry Armory, where general headquarters have been established. From the time the doors were opened on through the day there was a steady stream of Endeavorers entering and leaving by the 15th street door. Inside the hall the decorations have given the place something the appearance of a big bazaar. Booths have been built under the eaves and around the sides so that accommodations are provided for all the state delegations, and the delegates have not been slow to take advantage of the conveniences placed at their disposal. Headquarters have been fitted up with everything that can conduce to the comfort of the visitors, while young men and young women are on duty ready to give advice, suggestion or information, and the hat bands and badges of the various committees are very much in evidence. The booths are all in place, and have been tastefully draped and decorated with bunting and flags. The individual delegations have been left to the different delegations and denominational societies, so that the ornamentation can be made as characteristic as may be desired. Many of the states are using a great deal of taste in the displays they are making, and by now, gathering. It is but just to the local committees who have been working so hard for months past for the convention to say that their efforts are being fully appreciated by the visitors. These are unanimous in saying that never in the history of the society have such elaborate arrangements been put into effect for an international convention. The good results of systematic preparation are very evident, for it is doubtful if, under any circumstances, such a big crowd could arrive in a city and be distributed among the various homes with as little confusion and inconvenience as has been the case with the immense crowd that is now gathering.

Pennsylvania's Manager Delighted.

Among the early callers at headquarters this morning was Mr. H. J. Raymore, the transportation manager for the Pennsylvania state delegation. The Pennsylvania



Welcome to Washington, '96.

(Time, America.)
To all who love the Lord,
Resting upon His word,
Welcome we bring,
In Christian charity,
Freely we offer thee,
Love in His sacrifice,
As now we sing:
As we Endeavorers meet,
In such communion sweet,
From day to day,
While we to God appeal,
May each His spirit feel,
Mighty in unity,
To all, we pray:
Welcome to heart and home,
Welcome to Washington,
Welcome this day,
God grant you peace and rest,
Make pure each loyal breast,
Be in each heart the guest,
With you always.

Wave, wave, our colors wave,
Those which our fathers gave,
For Christ to die,
Red, blue and white, the three,
Love, truth and purity,
Mighty in unity,
For all the earth.
One glad, united band,
Be quick with heart and hand,
For Christ to die,
Search for the strayed and lost,
Rescue the tempted ones,
Save men at any cost,
To God be true.

booth is located in the northwest corner of the big drill room, and is prettily trimmed with red and blue bunting, and the front is hung with little banners of the different local societies. When Mr. Raymore first saw the preparations that had been made for the comfort of his delegation he was more than pleased.

"It is really most remarkable," he said to a Star reporter, "I wrote to our state secretary some time ago that we had better bring along some old working clothes, a hammer and nails, and that I thought it would be as well if we were prepared with a big step Boston. From my experience of old I had an idea that we would have more work than we could attend to in getting ready after we got here. And now, bless your heart, I find everything in apple pie order. I never saw anything like it. Last year in Boston we had to spend a large portion of one morning looking about to secure a ladder in order to complete the decorations on our booth. Since I have seen what the local committees have done for us I have sent word to the secretary that he might just as well wear his Sunday clothes from the start, for there was nothing left for us to do at all. It would be hard for me to say too much in praise of the efficiency and courtesy of the local committees. They have done things up as they have never been done before. Our delegation will not be here in force until tomorrow morning, and I am sure that every one of them will wear me out in what I have said."

President Clark a Visitor.

President Clark was also one of the early visitors at headquarters. He was greeted on all sides by scores of Endeavorers, who know him as the founder of the society and its most devoted friend. He expressed the greatest gratification at the success which has attended the labors of the committee of '96, and stayed long enough to give the big hall a thorough inspection. Then he retired to attend a meeting of the trustees and the state presidents, which was held behind closed doors. With President Clark was Mr. William Shaw of Boston, the treasurer of the United Society, and Mr. F. H. Kidder of Boston, the auditor. Mr. Shaw was in high good humor when he saw the preparations that had been made for the convention, and even the gloomy weather outside could not damp his spirits in the slightest. To the reporter he said that in his opinion things were moving along with the most remarkable

ADDRESSING THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION

Special From a Staff Correspondent.

CONVENTION HALL, CHICAGO, July 8.

The air was heavy with big politics at Convention Hall this morning. Events were expected to develop rapidly upon one line at least. The gold democrats were putting up their political fences with the skill of men accustomed to rapid and effective organization. Whitney and Hill were playing politics for the gold men, totally disregarding of the operations of the other side.

The most important feature of the situation at the hour of opening was the position of the gold wing of the party. Messrs. Whitney and Hill, standing as the managers of this wing, had drawn the line of separation between the gold and silver men sharply and distinctly. They proposed to disavow in the most emphatic and unmistakable terms the position of this convention as being representative of the democracy of the United States. They maintain that this is a silver convention and not a democratic assembly.



John I. Martin, Sergeant-at-Arms.

That it is composed of the silver elements of all parties and should be branded as being distinctly a composition of populists, republicans, greenbackers and "rebellious democrats." They insist that the eastern men, standing for "sound money," are solely the representatives of the democracy. Acting upon this theory, it is their purpose to effect an organization to stand until four years hence, then to be recognized as the true democratic party. Incidentally it will be absolutely in the control of Tammany.

It is the idea of Messrs. Whitney and Hill that four years will bring about the complete disintegration of the organization growing out of this convention. They think it may come about in one or two ways or through both. First, if defeat comes to silver at the next election and the congressional elections, two years later, it will break up the

organization. Second, they confidently expect that the silver party organized at this convention will break up of its own weight before two years are past. They point to the various elements composing this organization, democratic, republican and populist, and say they are sure to fall out and split up. It is then when even the democratic senatorial junta is divided against itself and

A Morning Full of Fervid Oratory.

The Tillman, Altgeld and conservative branches of the party go their ways that the New York crowd propose to step to the front and announce themselves as the true democracy. These are the hopes and plans of the gold democrats. Scarcely indifferent is the position of the free silver men toward the Whitney wing. They deny in toto the assumptions of the eastern men, and repudiate their claims of being the only true democracy. They are confident that their own organization will stand the test of the November elections, and the succeeding ones. They are indifferent as to what action the gold men may take, but say that if they propose to bolt they would do better to join the McKinley gold standard crowd than to attempt to set up a separate organization and label it democracy.

Slowly Taking Their Seats.

The delegates took their seats in the hall slowly. There were late sessions in every delegation last night, and many of them were continued this morning. The delegates wear an air of seriousness as they come in. Everybody seems to understand that there are weighty matters afoot, and are preparing themselves for the struggle.

The first shout of the morning goes up when the Iowa delegation enters, headed by a big banner of their candidate, Horace Boies. It is but a feeble shout, however. It is confined to the galleries, and does not find a response among the rank and file of the delegates. It is generally conceded that the Iowa delegation gave their candidate's prospects a heavy blow yesterday when they divided on the question of the temporary chairmanship. A portion of that delegation voted against Senator Daniel, the silver candidate, for the place. Word comes in from the place where the New York delegation is in conference that a division of opinion has appeared among them over the question of bolting the convention. Perry Belmont and ex-Governor Flower are talking for a bolt. Young Congressman Sulzer is opposing a bolt and the discussion has been very heated. Belmont is particularly bitter against the free silver men and terms them "rabble" and "off-scouring." Sulzer is eloquently advocating supporting the regular democratic ticket, whatever it may be.

The Bryan boom has entered the hall and receives encouragement. The Bryan "push" to the number of 200 or 300, carrying banners, march around the galleries, cheering as they go. The friends of the young Nebraska in the House take up the cry and raise a lively commotion for several moments. Forty-five minutes past the time for assembling and no indication of the convention coming to order. Work is being done, however, under the surface. Delegations are meeting, committees are closing up their labors and conferences are shaping

The Proceedings Delayed by Awaiting the Deliberations of the Various Committees.

business of the day. The galleries are not as full as yesterday, but promise to be more enthusiastic, as they are being packed with the "rooters" of the several candidates. None of the big politicians have taken their seats yet. The senatorial junta is hard at work over a conference, and the Whitney men are having troubles of their own. Senator Harris of Tennessee declined to



Gov. Matthews.

accept the permanent chairmanship. He says it would not do to give too much prominence to southern democrats. The convention comes to order finally, an hour late. The Rev. Mr. Green of Cedar Rapids, with a good, old-fashioned camp meeting voice, delivers prayer. Temporary Chairman Daniel is in good voice and condition, notwithstanding his labors of yesterday and last night. He calls for reports of committees, the committee on credentials being first in order. The committee is not ready, and a long pause ensues, during which more delegates come in. Not a member of the group of big politicians appears. Word comes in that the committee on

Christian Endeavor Stars.

For 10 cents The Evening Star for the week from July 8th to 14th, inclusive, will be mailed to any address in the United States or Canada. A file of The Star for the week will form a valuable souvenir, giving a full and readable history of the great gathering. Every issue will be handsomely illustrated.